

APPROVED: Meeting No. 28-97

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 14-97

March 19, 1997

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on March 19, 1997, at 8:22 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn and City Clerk Paula Jewell.

Also present were Director of Public Works Hal Cranor and Tony Obeed, Civil Engineer and Staff Liaison to the Science, Technology and Environment Commission.

Re: Worksession with the Science,
Technology and Environment
Commission (STEC)

The Mayor and Council met in Worksession with Robert Mangold, Chairperson of the Commission and STEC members Kenneth Firestone, Barbara Goldstein, Hala Jarrar, Charles Haine, Eugene Russin, Steven Schneider, and Nathaniel Woodrick. The Commission updated the Mayor and Council on the following 1996 accomplishments:

1. Science Day and Science Fair - The 1996 Science Day and Science Fair were a great success. The 8th Annual Science Day event will take place on 4/27/97. STEC members have served as judges at the NIST Science Fairs for a number of years and plan to continue their participation in the event. Montgomery County middle and high school students compete area-wide at the Science Fairs.
2. Watts Branch Sewer Task Force - The Mayor informed the Commission that the City was looking at several pump around options and she said that the Mayor and Council appreciated the Commission's continued involvement in the process.
3. Monopole issue - STEC provided advice to the City on this issue. The Commission feels that there are no real inherent environmental hazards; however, the City should continue to monitor and regulate placement of monopoles to prevent them from being installed at sites which might be environmentally sensitive.
4. Utility Line Placements - STEC also provided their input to the City on the issue of burying utility lines underground.

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5. Stream Monitoring - Mayor Krasnow noted that a new group, COUNTS (Coalition Of United Neighborhoods for Trees and Streams) had been formed, and she encouraged STEC to invite COUNTS members to future Commission meetings.
6. Science Lectures - Attendance has decreased in the past few years and STEC is attempting to revitalize interest in the series by producing the programs on videotape for cable television, as opposed to holding live lectures. Hala Jarrar has been recruiting new speakers to participate in the lectures and working with the local high schools and middle schools on this project.
7. Bulletin Board - The science bulletin board has been replaced by the City's website. In addition, there are plans to include an electronic interactive involvement through the use of RockNet. STEC was encouraged to sign on to the Visioning Technology Action Teams.

The Commission then updated the Mayor and Council on their involvement in current and future issues:

- (a) Imagine Rockville - Gene Russin is involved in the Economic Action Team. Robert Mangold is serving on the Environmental Action Team; however, he will not be able to continue to participate due to time constraints.
- (b) Proposed Animal Crematory - STEC is sending a letter to the Mayor and Council with their comments and findings on the issue.
- (c) Ozone Action - STEC supports the Council of Governments' action plan and will be sending a letter to the Mayor and Council regarding the matter.
- (d) Electric Cars - STEC would like the Mayor and Council to offer the City of Rockville as a test site. Mr. Cranor reported that the City's Fleet Manager was looking into the matter. He said that the electric cars were expensive; however, he agreed that the City would be an ideal test site if the cars could be provided by the manufacturer.
- (e) Independence Day Launch - NASA is planning to launch two space crafts to land on Mars in 1997; one landing will take place on July 4 and the other in September. Mr. Woodrick suggested that the City might want to incorporate the July 4 Mars landing into its Independence Day celebration.

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(f) Geographic Information System (GIS) - GIS is close to being completely installed in the City of Rockville. It will offer many opportunities for City departments and projects; e.g., providing information on tree cover health, traffic, road surface conditions, etc. Councilmember Dorsey asked STEC to determine a way to make the GIS technology available to the general public.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the Worksession adjourned at 9:27 p.m., to reconvene in General Session at 7:30 p.m., on March 24, 1997, or at the call of the Mayor.